**Contact Information:**

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**Course Overview:**

In accordance with the Alabama Course of Study, 8th grade science is an introduction to physical science. Topics included fall into two major categories: chemistry and physics. While these two topics are both very difficult, with your cooperation and eager attitude, the material will come with ease. In this course, we will be working with the assistance of AMSTI (Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative) and all of its entities. I have all intentions of making learning fun. If you put out effort, you will enjoy this class. Classroom participation is required. If you are not willing to work with your classmates, the teacher, and yourself, then you have a long road ahead in this class.

**Materials:**

* **Required:** Cheap 3 Clasp Folder with Pockets, Loose Leaf Paper, Pencils (no ink pens), scientific calculator, a good attitude
* **Recommended:** Splash proof safety goggles (I have some, but for sanitation purposes, I recommend you buy your own), fine point washable markers
* **Supplied:** AMSTI Kits: “Energy, Machines, and Motion” and “Properties of Matter”

**Classroom Regulations:**

* **Tardiness:** In order to be counted as punctual, you MUST be in your seat and prepared for class to begin before the bell rings. Do not linger in the hall ways socializing and expect me to not mark you tardy. You are in the 8th grade and should at this point have a grip on telling time; therefore, I will hold you responsible for that. Being tardy will cause you to receive a point deduction in your classroom participation grade as well as any consequences outlined in the Calhoun County Schools Student Handbook.
* **Climate and Environment:** The seating arrangement, heating and cooling, multimedia equipment, classroom decorations, and storage containers are all property of the teacher, and thus are not to be altered in any fashion by you. If you alter the classroom environment in any way, you will receive a point deduction from your classroom participation grade for not following the guidelines set forth for your participation.
* **Computer Usage:** The use of computers while in my class will be under strict supervision. The computers in this classroom are intended for instructional purposes only. They are not gaming devices, and will not be used as gaming devices. If you are caught playing games on my computers, you will lose your technology privileges during my class.
* **Hall Passes and Restroom Use:** There is a restroom across the hall from my classroom. With that said, It is required that restroom visits occur prior to class beginning. Hall activity during class is strictly prohibited without ***written*** permission from a teacher or faculty member. You will be allowed two restroom visits per semester, so I would advise you to use them wisely.
* **Classroom Preparedness:** You are expected and required to be in class prepared everyday. Do not even waste your breath asking to leave class to get supplies, for you will simply be ignored. Being prepared means that you have a blue/black ink pen, paper, and your textbook everyday unless instructed otherwise. Being unprepared for class will result in a point deduction from your classroom participation grade.
* **Behavior:** You are expected to give ALL adults in this classroom your utmost respect; therefore, inappropriate comments, verbal assault, raising of your voice, and blatant disrespect will not be tolerated. This will result in an immediate office referral. You are also expected to show respect to school property. If you perform a vandalistic act upon any property of the teacher or school, you will receive an office referral for vandalism. This includes: desktop artwork, unauthorized use of whiteboard markers, not returning classroom supplies to the correct storage receptacles, leaving trash in the floor, having food or drink in my classroom, damage to posters, or other students work. Talking during lectures is strictly prohibited. It simply will not be tolerated. If the teacher, guest speaker, substitute, or other student is performing a lecture, you will be ***SILENT***. However, content relevant questions are highly welcomed and highly encouraged. But if someone asks a question, I will answer it unless I designate one of you to answer it; in other words, I do not need to hear you while a question is being answered.
* **Class Dismissal:** Class will be dismissed by the teacher, not the bell. The bell is simply a means of telling me class time is over.

**Grading Policy:**

Your grade will be determined based on the following scale; however, this is simply an estimate. The teacher holds the right to change this scale with notice to the students.

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| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Weight** |
| Science Notebook | 50% |
| Exams and Homework | 25% |
| Classroom Participation | 25% |

**Make-up Work:**

Missed lab activities will not be reset for make-up work. It is in your best interest to be in class. This entire class is based on content covered during lab activities. If I do a journal check, and you are missing lab data, your grade will suffer greatly. In the event of your absence, you are responsible for getting lab data from one of your lab team members. Make-up exams will be given upon scheduling with the teacher. I will not ask you to schedule and exam. That is your responsibility.